

Appl. No. 09/930,804

Amendment Dated: August 1, 2005

### **REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 5-10 have been added. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 1-10 are pending.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

An Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed. Consideration of this IDS is respectfully requested.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious in view of the combination of Bass et al. (USP 6,557,053) and Runaldue (USP 6,067,408). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite

a head FIFO memory including a sequential sprinkler engine for sequentially delivering data packets to a plurality of switching elements at a slow rate relative to the head FIFO memory whereby some latency occurs between said data packets, the switching elements operating at the slow rate.

Similarly, new claim 6 recites

sequentially delivering the data packets from a sprinkler engine included in the head FIFO memory to a plurality of switching elements, the sequentially delivering occurring at a slow rate relative to the head FIFO memory whereby some latency occurs between the data packets.

Neither Bass nor Runaldue teach or suggest these limitations. Claims 1 and 6 and all claims depending thereon are, therefore, patentable over the cited references.

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*Conclusion*

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is solicited. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to with any questions or to discuss any further steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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